

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO MIKE BESSLER

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mike Bessler, the Chief Publications Clerk with the Office of Official Reporters under the Clerk of the House.

Mike will be retiring on July 30 after 23 years of service to the House making sure our committee transcripts are accurate, properly bound and delivered on time. I am pleased to have this opportunity to commend one of my constituents for his outstanding service to this institution.

Originally from the Bronx, New York, Mike served a 4-year tour in the Air Force, stationed at Wright Patterson in Ohio and Shemya in the Aleutian Islands.

He was finally discharged from Andrews Air Force Base, and with his wife, Peggy decided to stay in the Washington, D. C. area, where he spent over a decade in the private sector before being hired by the Office of Official Reporters in January 1981. He has served in that office with distinction ever since.

Mike has spent his years working closely with the House committees to ensure their satisfaction with the transcripts. Through his dedicated supervision of the Publications Office, he has been the quintessential dedicated public servant.

Those who worked with him are privileged to have worked with an individual of Mike's level of professionalism.

Mike and Peggy are the proud parents of two daughters, Michelle and Kelly, and doting grandparents of Erica, Ezra and Zoe.

Mike looks forward to spending time with them and enjoying gardening, home projects, and devoting more time to a lifelong fascination with film and movies.

Thank you, Mike, for your many years of dedicated, professional service to the House and the country. Best wishes to you and Peggy in your retirement.

HONORING REV. DAVID JOHNSON AND MRS. TAWANA JOHNSON FOR THEIR WORK WITH THE STUDENTS OF THE BRONX, NEW YORK AND THE TRIP TO THE UNITED NATIONS

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Reverend David M. Johnson and Mrs. Tawana Johnson for their strong community activism and commitment to today's youth. They have not only instilled pride into each and every child they have worked with, they have destroyed the notion that they are just

residents of America's inner-cities, but a valued citizen of the world.

On May 14, 2004, Mrs. Johnson, Founder of Virtuous Women Empower and God's Glory Interfaith Ministries where Rev. Johnson presides, organized and sponsored a trip to the United Nations for 100 of the most outstanding students from I.S. 117 Joseph H. Wade and C.E.S. 70 Max Schoenfeld School in the Bronx, New York. This meeting encouraged minority students that their representation in the international community is needed. This trip has engraved in the minds of these students a new understanding of diversity.

The students left a lasting impact on the United Nations with the intellect of their questions, and sincere concern for their community. After their visit the students were encouraged to return and many students were offered internships with the United Nations. Some of the students left striving to become diplomats, ambassadors, and Members of Congress.

Rev. and Mrs. Johnson have instilled a standard of excellence that all students should strive to follow. I share in our young people's dreams of democracy, equal opportunity and success. One day these students will assist in assuring these dreams come true for every citizen. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating them for their superior academic achievements, and their desire for social change.

The following Honor Roll students met with United Nations Ambassador Patrick Kennedy on May 14, 2004: Yariza Pimentel, Karina Hernandez, Narda Lopez, Zena Ahmed, Carol Prashad, Patricia Holman, Gisselle Francisco, Jatnna Medina, Jadderin Torres, Yereny Rodriguez, Gisell Acevedo, Jonathan Ruiz, Kamani Gujjar, Donnie Santana, Maite Amador, Eric Mayfield, Pilar Cruz, Eduardo Guerrero, Luiraldy Castillo, Kevin Delarosa, Jose Camacho, Ramon Cabral, Michelle Camarena, Lerubi Lopez, Luis Adames, Eduard Garcia, Betzaida Rodriguez, Denise Garcia, Albania Gonzalez, Edwin Albino, Marla Dominguez, Leonela Paula, Jessica Pena, Myrtle Richards, Kayla Williams, Yennifer Hernandez, Caroline Antigua, Devon Ferrer, Roshawn Ullah, Tasnim Majumder, Elias Rosario, Stephanie Pena, Tataria Burns, Paloma Carty, Erika Rosa, Verence Gomez, Tatiana Santiago, Angel Cardenas, Jose Aguilar, Omar Liriano, Leandro Pena, Richard Anim, Lisa Maldonado, Steven Diaz, Adalis Martinez, Gaby Perez, Stephany Veras, Claudia Avila, Evelyn Liriano, Marilyn Fernandez, Valeria Salazar, Omaira Tejada, Sebastian Gutierrez, Florangel Monegro, Sylvan Little, and HRU Rameses Amon Ra.

### CONGRATULATING THE WRIGHTWOOD NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO

#### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wrightwood Neighbors Association (WNA), and its President Michael Lufano, on their ongoing commitment to enriching the lives of members of the Wrightwood community, on the occasion of the 21st annual "Taste of Lincoln Avenue."

The Wrightwood neighborhood—part of the Lincoln Park community—is located on Chicago's North side, bounded by Diversey Parkway on the north, Halsted Street on the east, Fullerton Avenue on the south, and Lakewood Avenue on the west.

Since 1962, the work of the WNA has been essential to the ongoing success of the Wrightwood community. The WNA strives to maintain a vibrant urban community for people to live, shop, play, and raise families. The Association has helped Wrightwood preserve its historic and cultural treasures, while also encouraging architectural development to add beauty and rejuvenation to the neighborhood. With this combination, lifelong Wrightwood residents are able to remain, as new generations bring their own flavor to the area.

The vision of the WNA has given Wrightwood the ability to continuously emerge as an area with a strong sense of community, diversity, and heritage. The WNA's committees have enhanced the schools, maintained and improved local parks, and reviewed land development to guarantee the character of the community.

Known as the "Granddaddy of Chicago street festivals," the "Taste of Lincoln Avenue" provides Wrightwood neighbors the opportunity to enjoy the summer and spend time with friends. With food, craft vendors, live music, and other entertainment, it is an occasion for Chicagoans to sample the diversity of this great neighborhood.

Since its beginnings in 1984, the "The Taste of Lincoln Avenue" has raised over \$1 million, and last year alone, over \$135,000, in order to improve schools and parks, aid non-profit organizations, and increase the beauty of the community. The WNA's "Taste of Lincoln Avenue" celebrates the history of Wrightwood and ensures the community's continuous improvement in the future.

It goes without saying that the enthusiasm, hard work, and leadership of Michael Lufano, organization officers Jeff Kwiat, Stacey Hawk, Anne Durkin, and Chris Connors, and the other members of the WNA have brought a secure and lasting vision to Chicago's North side. I thank them for the enthusiasm in making the Wrightwood neighborhood one of the jewels of Chicago.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, and indeed all of Chicago, I am privileged to congratulate the Wrightwood Neighbors Association on continuing to enhance the quality of life in Chicago, and wish them tremendous success with the upcoming "Taste of Lincoln Avenue."

**MINOR USE AND MINOR SPECIES  
ANIMAL HEALTH ACT OF 2004**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2004*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 741, the Minor Use and Minor Species Animal Health Act. This legislation contains provisions that will better the lives and ease some of the frustrations for the more than 7 million Americans that suffer from food allergies every day.

I have had the unfortunate experience to learn more about the trials and tribulations of food allergen sufferers when one of the members of my staff, Christy Farmer, was diagnosed with Celiac Disease earlier this year. Celiac Disease is an immune-mediated disease that causes damage to the gastrointestinal tract and is triggered by the consumption of gluten. Gluten is the protein part of wheat, rye, barley, oats, and other related grains, which are found in many of the foods that people eat on a day to day basis. The only treatment for Celiac Disease is adherence to a strict life long gluten-free diet. In order to comply with this, individuals must carefully read all food labels—which can often be inaccurate and extremely confusing. Many times, food products may contain a derivative of a known food allergen, however the food label does not make that clear. This can lead to people unknowingly consuming exactly what they have been trying so hard to avoid. This painstaking process of carefully examining every food label and determining the exact ingredient of each product can be extremely frustrating and difficult for individuals.

This legislation will help tremendously in taking some of the guesswork out of reading food labels. Manufacturers in the food industry must now include the commonly accepted names of the eight most common allergens—milk, eggs, fish, crustacea, tree nuts, wheat, peanuts, and soybeans. Food allergen sufferers will now be able to scan food labels with greater ease and many incidents of accidental ingestion can be avoided.

Having a food allergy, especially to something that is found in so many different foods, can add a level of complication to a person's life that can be difficult to imagine. Christy was required to undergo a total lifestyle change due to her gluten sensitivity. Spontaneously stopping at a restaurant for dinner is no longer possible, traveling not knowing in advance what foods will be available is no longer an option, and giving up your favorite foods is not as easy as it sounds.

I am pleased that this legislation will help ease some of the frustrations and make adhering to an allergy-free diet a little easier for the millions of Americans that suffer from food allergies. I strongly urge my colleagues in joining me to support S. 741.

**THE ALASKA AIDS ASSISTANCE  
ASSOCIATION IN ANCHORAGE**

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, last week at the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, the world's attention was drawn to the 38 million people around the world who are living with HIV—nearly a million of whom live in the United States.

Moreover, many HIV positive individuals in the United States face significant hurdles that prevent them from engaging in long-term health care, including unstable financial and housing situations and a lack of trust between patients and health care providers. As a result, approximately 250,000 individuals who are aware of their HIV status are not receiving regular primary medical care; a population the Health Resources and Services Administration defines as the "unmet need" in the domestic epidemic. However, the United States should not and must not consider this lack of HIV health care inevitable because solutions do exist.

With this in mind, I rise today to recognize and share with you work that is being done in my own state of Alaska to successfully bring HIV treatment and care to the people who need it. The Alaska AIDS Assistance Association in Anchorage uses "Inter-Agency Networking" to connect HIV positive Alaskans to a system of integrated health care and support. The activity accomplishes this by providing health care agencies with opportunities to exchange information and share resources, thus increasing the agencies understanding of community needs and enhancing their ability to provide care to more people living with HIV.

Inter-Agency Networking is indebted to a capacity-building initiative called Connecting to Care, which was developed by AIDS Action in collaboration with the Health Resource and Service Administration. Connecting to Care identified the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association's activity as a "model practice" and disseminated it to more than 10,000 health providers throughout the country as a model intervention that has been successful in connecting HIV positive individuals to care. My hope is that the Connecting to Care initiative will guide other communities in their own development of activities that connect HIV positive individuals with the health care they want and need.

**PROTECTING RAILROAD OPERATORS,  
TRAVELERS, EMPLOYEES,  
AND COMMUNITIES WITH TRANSPORTATION  
SECURITY ACT OF 2004**

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I, along with my colleagues Congressman JAMES OBERSTAR, the Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and Congresswoman CORRIE BROWN, Ranking Demo-

cratic Member of the Railroad Subcommittee, are introducing the "Protecting Railroad Operators, Travelers, Employees, and Communities with Transportation Security Act of 2004" (PROTECTS Act).

Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, the government has authorized over \$12 billion on aviation security. Railroad and transit agencies were authorized to receive \$65 million in security grants in 2003 and \$50 million in 2004. Clearly, this disparity in security funding is unacceptable. We cannot afford to put a price tag on safety. We cannot leave our railroads vulnerable to attack. Nearly five times as many people take trains as planes every day. Our bill authorizes nearly \$1.3 billion to protect passenger and freight railroads and the communities they serve.

I have grave concerns regarding the vulnerability of our national rail and transit systems. A documented one-third of all terrorist attacks worldwide have targeted railroads and other surface transportation systems. The United States rail network touches every major urban center and hundreds of smaller communities in between. Millions of tons of hazardous materials are shipped yearly across the United States. A large portion of these shipments is transported by rail, sometimes through densely populated areas, increasing the concern that attacks or accidents on these shipments could have severe consequences. Additionally, the 3,000 to 3,300 railroad shipments of spent nuclear fuel from 39 states that the Department of Energy plans to deposit in Yucca Mountain over the next 24 years, highlights the need for stringent rail security to guard against such incidents.

Based on recent numerous rail attacks around the world, terrorists seem to have expressed a proclivity for attacking rail systems. Between 1998 and 2003, there were 181 attacks on trains and related targets such as depots, ticket stations and rail bridges worldwide. Lack of screening and inadequate safeguards in the transportation of explosives, chemical, biological and radiological agents have created major vulnerabilities in our rail transportation system. These vulnerabilities are all largely un-addressed.

The challenge of protecting our railroads is a daunting one. The demands on our system to deliver travelers and freight safely, quickly, and efficiently make our task all the more difficult. However, these goals are achievable. Failure on this mission is not an option.

The PROTECTS Act authorizes over \$1 billion to help secure our national rail system against terrorist threats. \$500 million is authorized for grants to wholly or partially reimburse State and local governments, railroad carriers and rail labor for the development and implementation of increased security measures.

The tragic terrorist attack on a commuter train system in Madrid earlier this year was a urgent reminder of our need to implement safety measures to secure our national rail transportation system. Washington's Union Station, and New York's Penn Station, both have very high volumes of pedestrian traffic that include a mix of Amtrak travelers and daily commuters. Inadequate security measures put these travelers at risk. Our bill authorizes \$597 million for Amtrak to address fire and safety issues in tunnels in New York, NY, Baltimore, MD, and Washington, DC. In addition, \$65 million is authorized for Amtrak system-wide security upgrades.

It is particularly disturbing that the federal government has yet to complete a national, risk-based threat management plan for preventing attacks upon our nation's rail system. The GAO report, "Rail Safety and Security: Some Actions Already Taken to Enhance Rail Security, but Risk-Based Plan Needed," which I, along with my colleagues JIM OBERSTAR, HENRY WAXMAN, and MARTY MEEHAN requested in 2001, concluded that "the adequacy of this industry plan to protect communities and the railroad infrastructure is still unclear since the Transportation Security Administration lacks the framework for systematically evaluating and prioritizing actions needed to ensure the safety and security of the transportation of hazardous materials by rail."

The PROTECTS Act authorizes grants to State and local governments and emergency responders for proper equipment and protective gear for hazardous material incidents. In addition, the act ensures that responders are properly trained and are familiar with the different types of hazardous materials that pass through and are stored in their communities.

A clear comprehensive industry plan is needed to protect communities and rail infrastructure. With 530 rail stations throughout the country—some of those no more than open platforms where passengers can walk freely onto the train—stringent airport-like security measures are not possible. However, the PROTECTS Act will ensure that the necessary steps to address security vulnerabilities on our rail system are implemented and that a comprehensive plan is developed.

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission) in their report that was released today concludes that the United States needs to develop strategies for neglected parts of our transportation security system. Also, the report recommends that we address problems of biometric screening between agencies and governments, including border and transportation systems. Our bill provides funding and authorizations to aid such efforts.

We got an urgent wake up call on September 11, which we answered. The commuter rail station bombing in Madrid was a second wakeup call. The PROTECTS Act is how we will answer that call. We have to do all that we can to secure America and its citizens against terrorists' threats. Why wait for the other shoe to drop, we need to act now to protect rail and rail passengers before we wake up to another tragic terrorist incident.

#### THE SITUATION ON CYPRUS

#### HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to discuss the situation on Cyprus. The best way to commemorate the twin anniversaries of the coup d'etat and the following events in Cyprus 30 years ago in July 1974 is to make sure that they never happen again. This is only possible if the political problem in Cyprus between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots is settled once and for all. This in turn will make Cyprus a bridge of cooperation, rather than conflict, between Greece and Turkey, and a bastion of stability in the eastern Mediterranean.

A historic opportunity was missed just a few months ago when the "Annan Plan" was rejected by the Greek Cypriots by a margin of 3 to 1, while it was accepted by the Turkish Cypriots with a clear majority of 65 percent in separate referenda. The United States, the European Union, Turkey and Greece had given strong support to the Plan as a reasonable compromise.

According to Secretary-General Kofi Annan's recent report to the Security Council regarding the results of the referenda, "the Turkish Cypriot vote has undone any rationale for pressuring and isolating them." Annan also called on U.N. Security Council members to "give a strong lead to all States to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies, to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development."

Having demonstrated their conciliatory spirit by letting bygones be bygones, the Turkish Cypriots rightly expect to be reintegrated with the international community in economic, cultural, social and other fields. U.S. and EU assistance to Turkish Cypriots to help them rehabilitate their economy and ease their isolation has been forthcoming but modest. I believe the Turkish Cypriots need and deserve our help in their struggle for justice and a better future.

#### AN ARTICLE ABOUT MR. PAUL KLEBNIKOV

#### HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, its fall was heralded as a new era of peace and prosperity, when the victims of communism would learn what it means to live in freedom. The establishment of capitalism in the capital of communism was no less significant. Sadly, the brand of Russian capitalism practiced today is just another form of materialism without moral foundation.

As rivals jockey for a share of the market and the trappings of a high flying Western lifestyle, Russia's amoral brand of the market economy has led to a last man standing mentality where shooting and bombing rivals and critics are nearly as common as balancing the books.

This past week, the Al Capones of Russia's business world claimed yet another victim. Paul Klebnikov, an American and editor of Forbes Magazine in Russia, was shot to death outside his office.

Klebnikov's only crime was reporting on the Russian business world and criticizing what he viewed as the too close relationship between Russia's elite businessmen and the government.

Paul Klebnikov's fearlessness and sense of right and wrong ultimately were his undoing. Had he been more circumspect in his views or less vocal with his criticism, he would probably be alive today. Those who knew Klebnikov, however, would be the first to say that he would not have changed a thing.

He believed in Russia and in Russia's future. He could not simply sweep Russia's problems under the rug. He knew that the only way to move democracy and market cap-

italism toward a normal existence was to condemn the excessive and corrupt.

Like so many other similar crimes, Paul Klebnikov's assassination has not been solved. Given the current strength of the Russian mafia and rampant corruption in the Russian government, I don't know if his murderers will ever be brought to justice.

I am submitting for the RECORD an article from the Washington Post. In it, Michael Caputo, a friend and colleague of Paul Klebnikov, honors his friend better than I can.

[The Washington Post, July 13, 2004]

SAME OLD RUTHLESS RUSSIA

(By Michael R. Caputo)

American journalist Paul Klebnikov was shot to death outside my office building on Friday. At least it used to be my office. I worked with Klebnikov, Forbes magazine's maverick correspondent, several times in the past 10 years, sometimes in Moscow, sometimes in New York. Our paths crossed often through one of Russia's wildest decades.

Eight years after we first met as he covered Boris Yeltsin's 1996 presidential election, his murder brings clarity: Nothing has changed. Brutal criminals still run amok in Russia, operating with impunity and no fear of prosecution.

Klebnikov had high hopes for Russia and was determined to urge democracy along. He grew up in the United States, cradled in the close-knit Russian American community; his Russian skills were perfect and his devotion to the culture ran deep. He blossomed in journalism just as the communist bloc crumbled, and his unique understanding of "the story" in the region propelled his career.

As we toured the Russian countryside eight years ago, he talked to peasants waiting in line to vote and grilled me with questions, too. Had I run across billionaire Boris Berezovsky in my work with the Yeltsin administration? I hadn't. Klebnikov had recently been scratching the surface of Berezovsky's brazen get-rich-quick schemes. He was convinced there was much more to the oligarch. He was in town to investigate him as well as to cover the elections.

Berezovsky was one of several super-wealthy men who had back doors to Yeltsin's Kremlin. His popularity waxed and waned, but as he amassed wealth he gained unparalleled power. Experienced expatriates in Russia shared an essential rule: Don't cross these brutal billionaires, ever, or you're likely to go home in a box.

Klebnikov knew this well. In Russia the mafia kills every day. He knew Paul Tatum, the Oklahoma entrepreneur who ran afoul of Moscow's mafia and was shot dead just a few hundred yards from a hotel he had founded and had fought against Mayor Yuri Luzhkov to control. After Tatum's murder, Hizzoner promised swift justice. We're still waiting.

Tatum had led a loud life in Moscow. Klebnikov told me he knew Tatum's battle with city "authorities" was never a sound strategy for survival. The Tatum murder shook him, but he was determined to go forward with what grew into a series of articles exposing Russian corruption. After all, he was a reporter, not a businessman.

As a journalist, Klebnikov was the real deal. He was based in New York through the 1990s but had more contacts in Moscow than most reporters on the ground full time. During his frequent trips to the region he accomplished more meetings before lunch than many of us could pull off in a week.

Klebnikov listened as intently to the griping of a pensioner as he did to the drone of politicians. He was quick to the point, wasted no time, and drove to the center of his story like a tank. Some thought he was bold,

others thought him brash, but everyone was reading.

"Godfather of the Kremlin," his December 1996 *Forbes* cover story on Berezovsky, threw new light on the doings of Russia's oligarchs. The story grew into Klebnikov's first book, with the same title, published in 2001. The exiled industrialist took the magazine to court in London, and eventually *Forbes* recanted accusations of violence. Those of us who lived in Moscow during Berezovsky's heyday still believe.

His follow-up stories on Russian industrialists were always fair and thorough, but he didn't make many friends in the country. Soon after Vladimir Putin stepped into the presidency, Klebnikov and I met in New York. I told him he needed to watch his back with so much change afoot. He shrugged and said he was uniquely positioned to get to the heart of corruption in Russia. "Who else is going to do it?" he asked. I had no answer.

When *Forbes* announced Klebnikov would lead its new Russian publication and relocate to Moscow, I immediately feared for his safety. A few months later he was dead. I think about him, sprawled bleeding on the sidewalk, coughing his final words to a reporter colleague who found him dying.

Russia hasn't changed in the past decade and at this trajectory it won't be truly civilized for generations. Those who killed Klebnikov are killing today, plan to kill tomorrow, and know they'll roam free to kill for years to come. Hellbent on getting rich, they have no boundaries. Raised in a communist world devoid of morals, they have no soul.

There is no valid reason why a nation so tolerant—even complicit—in organized crime should stand on par with world leaders in groups such as the World Trade Organization. Putin must stand as the guarantor of media freedom. And the Bush administration must demand results in this murder investigation and require the assassins and their bosses be detected, arrested, tried and punished to the fullest extent of the law.

Or will it let Paul Klebnikov, like Paul Tatum, be just another footnote in Russia's disingenuous flirtation with world-class rule of law? We're waiting.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLEGAL TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 1974 illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

I have commemorated this day each year since I became a Member of Congress. PSEKA (The International Coordinating Committee "Justice for Cyprus"), The Cyprus Federation of America, SAE (World Council of Hellenes Abroad), and The Federation of Hellenic Societies are all primarily located in the 14th Congressional district of New York, which I am fortunate to represent. These individuals believe that peace will come to Cyprus, and they have been strong advocates against the division of Cyprus and the human rights violations perpetrated by the Turkish army in Cyprus.

While we must remember this black anniversary, we also have reason to celebrate. On May 1, Cyprus became a full-fledged member of the European Union along with nine other countries from Central and Eastern Europe.

Cyprus's accession to the EU is a historic achievement. As an EU member, Cyprus will represent European values and policies and, at the same time, will work toward even stronger transatlantic ties with the United States. This has been a long time in coming, and I believe that Cyprus will have much to contribute to the EU.

Although all of us, including the Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots, wanted to see the division of Cyprus end before its accession to the EU, the Annan Plan for a Cyprus settlement was justly voted down by the Greek Cypriots. Prior to the April referendum on the Annan Plan, I and several of my colleagues met with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to express our concerns and our willingness to work with him to move the process forward. I know we are all hopeful that a just resolution can be reached soon to end the division so that both sides will reap the benefits from membership in the EU.

Now is not the time to give up. Earlier this month, my friend and fellow co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, Congressman BILIRAKIS, and I sent letters, along with more than ninety members of the House of Representatives, to President Bush, Secretary of State Powell, and U.N. Secretary General Annan urging them to respect the democratic decision of the people, to remain engaged in efforts to resolve the Cyprus problem, and to work toward a fair and lasting reunification of Cyprus.

A unified Cyprus would promote stability, both politically and economically, to the entire Mediterranean region. The people of Cyprus deserve a unified and democratic country. I remain hopeful that a peaceful settlement will be found so that the division of Cyprus will come to an end.

Thirty years is too long to have a country divided. It is too long to be kept from your home. It is too long to be separated from family.

We have seen many tremendous changes around the world. It is time for the Cypriots to live in peace and security, with full enjoyment of their human rights.

In recognition of the spirit of the people of Cyprus, I ask my colleagues to join me in solemnly commemorating the 30th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus.

Long Live Freedom. Long Live Cyprus. Long Live Greece.

#### A TRIBUTE TO SALVATORE AND MYRA RASPA'S SERVICE

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Salvatore and Myra Raspa of St. Mary's County, Maryland for their leadership as outstanding educators and service to their community.

In 1961, Sal was employed as a science and chemistry teacher at Great Mills High School. After teaching for seven years, he was appointed Assistant Principal and in 1978 became Principal of Great Mills High School. He later became Supervisor of Instruction for Science and Health with the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, St. Mary's County

Public Schools. He was also Supervisor of Transportation and Assistant Superintendent before his retirement from the St. Mary's County Public Schools in 1999 after 38 years of service.

Dr. Raspa was dedicated to his profession and accordingly received numerous awards and commendations such as recognition from the VFW for Outstanding Achievement and Exceptional Leadership in the Community, the Governor's Citation for Outstanding Commitment to Public Education, recognition from the Naval Air Warfare Center and The Maryland Science Center, and the Joint Board of Science and Engineering Education Award as an Outstanding Educator. He also received the Governor's Award for Voluntary Service in Prevention of Drugs and Alcohol as well as the American Legion Award for Contribution to Youth in St. Mary's County and special recognition from Lions Clubs International for Promoting Drug Awareness Programs—Skills for Adolescence.

Myra Raspa began her teaching career as an English and Publications teacher at Leonardtown High School, where she was responsible for publishing two major publications: *The History and Culture of the Chesapeake Bay* and *The Heritage/History of The St. Mary's County Fair*. During her 20 years with the St. Mary's County Public Schools, she also received several awards and citations, such as the Citation from the Southern Maryland Legislative Delegation for "Outstanding Educator and for Contribution to Youth", the Governor's Citation for "Excellence in Education", Recognition from Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein for Exemplary Publication, *The Heritage*, Citation from St. Mary's County Commissioners for "Outstanding Contribution to Students of St. Mary's County", St. Mary's Board of Education Certification of Recognition for "Outstanding Contribution to Student Achievement", St. Mary's Award to Recognize Talent in Teachers, The St. Mary's Council on Children and Youth "Outstanding Contribution to Youth", recognition from Dr. David W. Hornbeck, State Superintendent of Schools for "Outstanding Educator", and National Council of Teachers of English for "Outstanding Publication", and a Commendation from Senator C. Bernard Fowler, Senator of Maryland, for "Exemplary Contribution to Youth," and a Commendation from the Environmental Matters Committee for "Excellence in Education." She is currently an Instructional Resource with the Department of Curriculum and Instruction with a focus on high schools.

Mr. Speaker, dedicated educators like Sal and Myra Raspa are today's hope for a better tomorrow. They are the role models to whom students and others within their workplace and their community look for guidance and support. By pointing students in the right direction, such educators contribute to the future accomplishments of their students.

They have applied this commitment to molding children's future to their own home, as well. Myra and Sal's children are Sal, Jr., Joseph—deceased, Scott, Angela, Victor, and Anthony. Myra Raspa had to undergo a major juggling act between continuing her education and taking her children to Boy Scouts, band practice, football practice, wrestling practice, swimming lessons, and so forth. All the children attended Great Mills High School and were given their diplomas by their father during his tenure as Principal there. All are college graduates and are successful and are

contributing to society. Sal and Myra consider their children their major accomplishments.

As busy as Sal and Myra were, they still took the time to find a way to involve the entire family in a tobacco farming business for a number of years when the children were teenagers, even venturing into an experimental curing process which was monitored by the University of Maryland. The Raspas also operated an air conditioning and refrigeration business at one time.

The Raspas have constantly demonstrated their commitment to service through their participation in other civic activities in St. Mary's County. Sal served four terms on the Democratic Central Committee and served as chair for two terms. He belongs to the Lexington Park Lions Club and received the Melvin Jones Award in 2002, which is the highest award given by Lions Club International. He was elected to the St. Mary's County Board of Education in 2002 and currently holds the position of Vice Chairman.

Myra has been active on many county and state committees including the State Department of Education Standards Setting Committee for English; the Maryland Assessment Consortium; the Gifted and Talented Task Force; Integrated Support Team; PreK-12 Intervention Task Force; Project SMART Grant Advisory Committee; MSPAP MEGA-TASK Developer; Content Coordinator for English/Language Arts/Writing MEGA-TASK, Maryland State Department of Education; and TASK-WRITER for High School Assessments, Maryland State Department.

Both Sal and Myra Raspa are still very active in St. Mary's County and continue to advocate for children. They believe in contributing for the betterment of the community. Mr. Speaker, on this day I wish Dr. and Mrs. Raspa well in their future pursuits.

**HONORING THE COUNTRIES OF  
THE CARIBBEAN ON THE OCCA-  
SION OF THE 166TH ANNIVER-  
SARY OF THEIR EMANCIPATION  
FROM SLAVERY**

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in one accord with all the former British colonies in the Caribbean to celebrate the 166th anniversary of Emancipation Day, August 1, 1838.

In doing so, I wish to not simply recount the histories of the islands in the Caribbean, for I could hardly do justice to their diverse and compelling paths to freedom. Instead, I would like to commemorate the great day of Emancipation with a narrative of cunning, resolve, and triumph, a story that in many ways symbolizes the history of all the former British colonies which were granted freedom on that great August day.

Early in the 18th century the British brought a young lady to Jamaica's shores to work as a slave. Like the Caribbean countries themselves, her roots were African. Her name was likely a strong Ashanti one since she hailed from that great African kingdom, but upon arriving she was stripped of her given nomenclature and was known to her fellow slaves simply as "Nanny."

Slavery persisted in the Caribbean until 1834 and then in the name of "apprenticeship" until 1838, but it did not persist with "Granny Nanny of the Maroons", as she is known today. Soon after her arrival she displayed the world-renown Caribbean penchant for cutting her own path, and escaped from her master's plantation with her five brothers. Granny Nanny then traveled around the countryside organizing free Africans in the towns of St. James, St. Elizabeth, and Portland. She eventually established Nanny Town and based the community's governance on the Ashanti society.

Like the Caribbean countries, Nanny was small and wiry, but also like these countries, she was singularly focused in her pursuit of self-determination. The vast British military presence on the island launched numerous attacks on Nanny and her comrades, hoping to force them back into slavery, but for nearly two decades Nanny, the acknowledged and greatly respected leader of an army of at least 800 maroons, withstood their aggressions. She placed guards at look-out points, sent spies to live among the slaves in British plantations, and ordered her fighters to dress like trees and bushes, so that when the British entered these human "forests" they would be overwhelmed by Nanny's forces.

In 1737 the British offered Nanny a truce: the maroons would be given land and rights as free men, but only if they promised to help capture and return runaway slaves, assist the Government in putting down revolts, and cease their wars with the British. Their only other alternative would be to continue in their campaign against the massive British military, pitting 800 men against what was, at that time, the strongest army in the world.

Nanny refused their offer.

And still, these Caribbean countries refuse. Thus, I feel that the story of Granny Nanny is in many ways the story of Barbados, Nevis, Bahamas, Antigua, Barbuda, Montserrat, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent, Grenada, and Saint Lucia.

For centuries, the people of these countries refused to accept British colonialism, stubbornly resisting the British from hideaways in cities, mountains, and forests. In 1838 they were finally freed from slavery's grasp, but they have not become complacent. Although confronted by pressing economic and social issues, they remain defiant, refusing to be defined by their problems and continuing to make important strides to attract investment, maintain good governance, and work for equity across all segments the population.

Today I remember Caribbean Emancipation Day by saluting Granny Nanny of the Maroons, the hero who perhaps most typifies the spirit of these great nations. It is my hope that we in the United States, with our economic policies and diplomatic relations, continue to support the efforts of these Caribbean countries as they move confidently and prosperously into the 21st Century.

**HONORING THE KOREAN CHICAGO  
KOREAN AMERICAN CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE**

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize the contributions of Chicago's Korean American Chamber of Commerce toward preserving the glorious heritage and culture of Chicago's Korean community, on the occasion of its 9th Annual Korean Street Festival.

The Korean Chamber of Commerce continues to be an integral part of the Korean Community in Chicago. As a strong advocate for commercial, financial, and industrial member rights, the Chamber has played an essential role in local Korean American economic and community development. From educating members on renewing and issuing licenses, to aiding small businesses and forming cooperatives for purchasing products, its services have been indispensable to the greater Chicago area.

Among the valued contributions of the Chicago Korean American Chamber of Commerce is their joint effort with the Korean Street Festival Committee for the annual street festival. The Annual Korean Festival on August 14th and 15th will showcase the rich culture and traditions of the Chicago Korean Community, while celebrating the Centennial of Korean immigration.

Since 1996 the Korean Street Festival Committee has planned its celebration to enrich Chicago's summer season. Last year's display of arts, cuisine, music and dance performances, and variety of merchandise, brought over 40,000 local Chicago residents and travelers from around the Midwest region.

The Chicago Korean American Chamber of Commerce has consistently demonstrated its commitment to keeping the Korean heritage alive in Chicago. Their various programs and services all contribute to the success of the organization, and I applaud those who work and volunteer their time to continue this important mission. But, the Korean Street Festival is much more than good food and entertainment. It is a chance to remember and honor all of the hard work and accomplishments made by the Korean Community. It is through this awareness in which younger generations can pass on the traditions and values of Korea.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored on behalf of the Fifth District, and indeed all of Chicago, to call attention to all of the meaningful work occurring at the Chicago Korean American Chamber of Commerce at the time of its 9th Annual Korean Street Festival. I wish them a glorious festival and a thriving future in Chicago.

**BILL CALLS FOR REGULATING  
ACCUTANE**

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4598: the Accutane Safety and Risk Management Act.

In an effort to improve the health and safety of patients using a pharmaceutical product that has been linked to several major side effects, I recently joined with my friend and colleague Congressman BART STUPAK of Michigan to introduce this legislation that will establish a comprehensive patient registry for users of the drug Accutane and its generic forms.

Accutane was approved for use in treating severe acne in the early 1980s. Today, more than 1 million prescriptions are approved each year, and not always for the serious cases of acne for which the drug is intended. The Food & Drug Administration states that, "Accutane may cause depression, psychosis, and rarely, suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, and suicide." Additionally, the makers of the drug state that "there is an extremely high risk that a deformed infant can result if pregnancy occurs while taking Accutane in any amount, even for short periods of time."

Four years ago, Congressman STUPAK had to endure the tragic suicide of his teenage son, who was using Accutane at the time of his death.

Despite the fact that the significant and serious side effects linked to Accutane are well known, the Food and Drug Administration has yet to mandate a program to better monitor the use of this drug and to document its effects in patients. Such a registry has been recommended by FDA advisory panels on two separate occasions.

Mr. Speaker, our bill is common sense legislation that will build upon a safety plan first proposed by the makers of this drug themselves. It will still permit doctors to prescribe Accutane, but will also institute several additional patient safety and protection measures and ensure patients and their families know the full risks before beginning treatment.

H.R. 4598 will permit physicians to prescribe Accutane only for "severe, recalcitrant nodular acne" that has been unresponsive to other forms of treatment. Severe acne is the condition for which Accutane was originally approved by the FDA to treat.

For patients with severe acne, Accutane may be the only medication that can successfully treat their affliction. But in far too many cases, Accutane is prescribed in an overly cavalier manner, and patients are being placed at risk to the drug's potential side effects for no medically valid reason. Many teenagers suffer from acne, and doctors and patients need to be cautious and not treat this drug lightly.

The legislation will also register all physicians and pharmacists who prescribe and dispense the drug, and institute an education campaign to ensure these providers are well-informed about the potential risks associated with Accutane. All patients will also be educated and be required to receive similar information before starting treatment with Accutane and throughout the treatment regimen.

Prescriptions will only be written for 30 days and will not be permitted via the telephone, Internet, or mail. Female patients will also have to undergo a monthly pregnancy test before receiving a renewal on their prescription, and all patients will be required to take a monthly blood test.

The makers of the drug and all practitioners who dispense Accutane will also be required to file prompt reports with the Department of Health and Human Services anytime they learn of a negative reaction, including a death, that occurs in a patient while using Accutane.

## REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN DORCAS HARDY, VA TASK FORCE ON VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT

**HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Honorable Dorcas R. Hardy recently chaired the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Task Force of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Task Force issued its report in March 2004, and furnishes an excellent road map on how VA can place a stronger emphasis on long-term sustained employment for disabled veterans who are vocational rehabilitation participants. I was especially impressed with the section entitled, *More Challenges Await: A Final Word* from the Task Force Chairman, and commend it to my colleagues as an example of Ms. Hardy's wisdom and foresight:

### *MORE CHALLENGES AWAIT: A FINAL WORD FROM THE TASK FORCE CHAIRMAN*

Addressing the benefit, rehabilitation, and employment needs of persons with disabilities—and especially veterans with service-connected disabilities continues to be difficult, and often controversial. One thing is certain: The Department of Veterans Affairs cannot afford to fail the veteran who has given so much in the service of our Nation in previous wars and now in this age of terrorism.

There is no doubt in my mind that VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Program can become the best public rehabilitation program in the country, given appropriate resources and leadership. The new comprehensive, integrated 21st Century VR&E Employment-Driven Delivery System, which is proposed by the Task Force, builds on the strengths of the past and provides a continuum of service delivery, from military service to career counseling, appropriate retraining, and education, to employment or transitional independent living services with the ever-present goal of employment. The new system can provide the answer to a disabled veteran's transition to civilian society—a job.

Employment program will necessitate a major shift in attitude and approach. The current reality is that the VR&E program—despite the legislation of 1980—continues to operate as a VA education benefit for disabled veterans. It provides a larger stipend than the GI Bill program, and is accompanied by some counseling, as necessary. The new program, on the other hand, addresses the continuum of "life cycle" needs that a veteran with disabilities experiences, of which education may—or may not—be a necessary part. The focus will be the rehabilitation and employment needs of the 21st century service-connected disabled veteran.

Because the United States is at war, and will likely be in conflict situations for the foreseeable future, there must be a sense of urgency on the part of the entire Department as well as the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service to create this new 21st century service delivery system.

I respectfully suggest that no more reports or discussions are needed, just immediate and concrete actions that are supported by the Administration, the Department, and the Congress. If this vital program, with its potential for becoming the most outstanding vocational rehabilitation system within the federal government, is unable to quickly and

effectively serve the 21st Century veteran, then one must consider other options. These options include: (1) contracting the program out with clear and stringent requirements to follow the employment intent of the law, or (2) recognizing that the mandated employment focus of the program is not possible and reintegrating VR&E into the Education Service of the Veterans Benefits Administration, adding an additional stipend for disabled veterans.

Having served in various state and federal governmental positions, including Commissioner of Social Security and Assistant Secretary of Human Development Services, I have worked with numerous social services policies and programs. Cash benefit services, such as the VA Compensation and Pension Service or Social Security provide support through direct payments. These programs require development of automated claims processing methodologies. Direct and personal services are those provided by VR&E or social service agencies. Different skills, personalities, and approaches are needed for each part of the delivery system. VR&E stands as an island in the sea of the Veterans Benefits Administration, a claims processing organization. VR&E is not connected to the claims processing functions, nor do other business lines have any particular appreciation or understanding of its function. Both cash and direct benefits are needed to support the veteran. Development of a seamless, integrated delivery system is the challenge.

Many have suggested that the entire VR&E program should become a part of the Veterans Health Administration, which has more of a hands-on service delivery focus. Just as the Task Force rejected the idea of moving the VR&E Independent Living program to VHA at this time, that same thinking can be applied to moving all of VR&E to VHA. VR&E needs to address its own shortcomings first, wherever it is housed, before participating in another reorganization.

If implemented with commitment and enthusiasm, the Task Force's recommendation to rebuild the VR&E Service can be successful. Building the new service delivery system cannot be done slowly, nor sequentially. It must be driven with clear and focused timeframes; and it must be done believing that each veteran's future depends upon an effective new approach. Leadership and management will be key; timeframes that some may deem unreasonable should become standard; processes must be streamlined and supported by technology; and veterans must recognize that they, too, have an individual responsibility to complete their vocational rehabilitation plan and secure employment in a timely manner.

### FUTURE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Throughout the discussions and deliberations of the Task Force, several broad policy issues were raised that were not thoroughly addressed, either because they were not directly within the scope of this Task Force's work or, in several cases, they were far more complex than our time permitted. Some issues were just too controversial at this particular point in time, but their "tipping point" will come and thoughtful policymakers and managers should be prepared to consider their breadth, shape, and impact upon VR&E. As the Veterans Benefits Administration proceeds to modernize VR&E, these longer term policy considerations, which cross the business lines of VBA, should be discussed and addressed. Each issue below will arise in the foreseeable future; each issue will have a significant consequence for the successful future of a 21st century VR&E program.



# ROLE OF COUNSELING AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE IN THE VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

Historically, VBA had a focus on personal counseling about requested benefits and services through face-to-face contact with the veteran. Today, the Compensation and Pension Service provides outreach services to veterans through the Veterans Service Centers but the focus is "you are entitled to benefits from the VA and here is the claim to file." This is not counseling in the traditional sense, rather a method to ensure that veterans receive cash benefits to which they are entitled. Since the VR&E Program is the only benefit that is provided face-to-face to the veteran, VR&E, with its professional counseling staff, should provide all outreach services to veterans, regardless of whether or not the veteran is disabled. A veteran with financial or life cycle or any other issues should be able to access counseling services at a VR&E office. Such a policy may necessitate additional resources beyond what is recommended at this time to rebuild the VR&E program.

## NEED FOR NEW PROGRAMS

This report highlights the need for clear and comprehensive data about the population that is served by VR&E. Without such data, as well as research, we will not be able to project who the service-connected disabled veterans of the future will be, nor what their needs will be. Questions that should be addressed include:

Will their injuries and disabilities be considerably different than those of recent veterans?

Will the technology used on battlefields or in medical rehabilitation impact more significantly the veteran's future ability to be a productive member of civilian society?

How will medical advances, as projected by the Institute of Medicine or the National Institutes of Health, impact the VR&E program?

The Task Force's analysis of types of disabilities of veterans entering the VR&E program found that the number of veterans determined disabled due to neuropsychiatric illnesses is increasing. The increase in mental conditions is also being seen by other public benefit programs such as Social Security Disability Insurance. It appears that the majority of veterans in the Independent Living program are those with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Yet, as this report clearly states, Independent Living status within the VR&E program should not be the sole response to their needs. An assessment of the impact of an increased number of mental health disabilities on the VR&E services should be conducted as soon as possible. The outcome will likely conclude that new programs should be developed jointly with VHA to address the needs of these veterans. Of equal importance will be the development of a methodology that guides how VR&E interacts with VHA to plan for new solutions to disabling conditions.

## IMPACT OF AN AGING VETERAN POPULATION ON SERVICES

Every social services delivery policymaker is well aware of the general aging of the population. The question should be raised as to the expected impact of the graying of veterans upon VR&E. Issues such as the aging of the general workforce could mean less discrimination against older veterans in the workplace and therefore more older applicants for VR&E services. As veterans age, many are filing additional claims for disability compensation, and many may initiate or renew their requests for VR&E services. VR&E should be proactive in addressing at least the following questions: Should

VR&E accept all disabled veterans regardless of age? Is age a criterion for prioritization of expected services? How should VR&E balance its resources vis-a-vis age of applicant and number of times services have been requested?

## IMPACT OF DISABILITY DETERMINATION

The VA disability benefits adjudication system has been the subject of discussion and controversy for many years. Congress recently established, as part of the 2004 Defense Authorization Act, the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission to study the compensation benefit structure and complete a report in 2005. They are directed to examine the appropriateness of such benefits and the appropriate benefit determination standards, compare veterans' benefits with other public and private sector disability benefits and, perhaps most important, "consult with Institute of Medicine of National Academy of Sciences with respect to medical aspects of contemporary disability compensation policies."

Ideally the Commission's deliberations will provide a framework for many policy decisions related to the VA's disability criteria that will be updated to reflect the current state of science, medicine, technology, and labor market conditions. Such recommendations could be the catalyst that moves veterans' disability policy toward use of scientific advances and incorporates economic and social changes that have already redefined the relationship between impairments and the ability to work within the private sector. Such discussion and modern approaches could significantly impact the workload and processes of VR&E.

For example, currently there are nearly 175,000 veterans with a 60 percent or more disability rating who have applied and receive a determination that they are "Individually Unemployable." The designation of "Individually Unemployable" entitles the veteran to a 100 percent rating with commensurate compensation. Yet the adjudication process never includes the views of a vocational rehabilitation counselor as to whether or not the beneficiary could participate in the labor force or whether a strong vocational rehabilitation or counseling program would be effective in assisting the veteran achieve employment, perhaps using assistive technology or other types of supports. The questions that are raised are: Without input into the IU determination process from a trained rehabilitation expert, should IU veterans or those applying for IU status be served by the VR&E program? How can an individual be officially designated "unemployable" (a label that should be an anathema) and allowed to participate in an employment program at the expense of another veteran who wants and needs a job?

It is recognized that over the years, the Congress and the courts have expanded the scope and complexity of veterans' disability benefits. It is hoped that the Commission will conduct a thorough review of the benefits schedule and challenge the status quo. They might begin by asking how a tender scar, migraine, or mild asthma can be the sole "disability" for which a veteran receives compensation according to a rating schedule and is thereby automatically eligible for VR&E services, in the same manner as a severely-disabled veteran.

## THE GI BILL FOR THE FUTURE

The Task Force learned that more than 75 percent of those who enter the VR&E program proceed through a rehabilitation plan that includes a goal of a college degree. Though the data is not clear, one can assume (given the number of discontinued and interrupted participants) that most veterans spend far more than 4 years attaining their

degree. Equally important, most of these "students" never exhausted their GI Bill benefits. One assumes that is because the VR&E education benefits are considerably more generous than the current GI Bill. This pattern raises some questions: Does this mean that deficiencies exist in the current GI Bill? Or are veterans with disabilities just looking for the best deal? Should there be changes in the GI Bill that might make it more appealing to veterans with disabilities? What should they be?

In 1998, the then Vocational Rehabilitation and Counseling Program wrote a strategic management document that addressed the reasons that the program desperately needed to change in order to provide effective services to disabled veterans. The reasons for change were:

Inadequate focus on employment,

Customer perceptions and expectations are out-of-step with the program's intent,

Inability to monitor outcomes and provide feedback to the program; Inadequate IT support for the program,

Inadequate access for veterans,

Inadequate coalitions with peer organizations and partners, and inefficient business processes.

Despite such introspection, not much has changed. This 2004 Task Force Report not only urges management to rebuild the VR&E program but also provides a clear road map as to how to accomplish the objective. There is no excuse for lack of success.

## THE CHARGE

Unfortunately, there are not as many successful social service delivery programs as one would like. Positive outcomes for adults, as measured by an individual's independence and employment, are often difficult to attain. But I believe the mighty band of nearly 1,000 VR&E staff has the resourcefulness and dedication to build a new service delivery system for veterans with service-connected disabilities. With leadership, appropriate resources, a broad and creative approach, and what I term "cheerleading support," they can reinvent themselves, they can get energized, and they can be the best program serving the 21st century rehabilitation and employment program—and just in time for those 21st Century service veteran. VR&E can become the model public sector members returning from Iraq, Afghanistan, or anywhere else in the world where freedom calls.

It has been a privilege to chair this Task Force and present our report.

Dorcas R. Hardy, Chairman, VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Task Force.

## THE MEDICAID AND CHIP SAFETY NET PRESERVATION ACT OF 2004

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, along with Representatives BROWN, WAXMAN, and CAPPS, I am introducing the "Medicaid and CHIP Safety Net Preservation Act of 2004." This bill seeks to reaffirm the protections in the Medicaid statute for beneficiaries who receive health coverage through Medicaid in a waiver program. The Medicaid program currently covers more than 50 million Americans of all backgrounds, from pregnant women and children, to the working disabled and elderly in nursing homes. Recent actions by the Administration have raised concerns that the core principles

of the Medicaid program are being undermined by the inappropriate use of waiver authority by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The Administration's Medicaid waiver initiative is an attempt to do behind closed doors what it has been able to do openly in Congress, which is to reduce protections in healthcare for some of our most vulnerable citizens. In less than four years the Bush Administration has eroded the health care safety net for millions of Americans, at a time when the faltering economy has produced record high unemployment and increased the number of Americans who are uninsured for health care.

The "Medicaid and CHIP Safety Net Preservation Act" will ensure transparency and public input in the process for exercising the waiver authority under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act. It also adds protections to ensure that waivers do not erode the core objectives of the Medicaid program and Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP) previously enacted by Congress.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to assure that some of our most vulnerable citizens will receive higher, not lower, quality health insurance coverage under Medicaid.

#### AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN CERTAIN RECYCLING PROJECTS

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 19, 2004*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Congressman DREIER's Inland Empire Regional Water Recycling Initiative, H.R. 2991, which will specifically benefit the cities of Ontario and Fontana in my district.

I am an original co-sponsor of the bill and I look forward to seeing its benefits in the Inland Empire in California.

I consider it top priority to improve water quality and increase water quantity in my community. This community has had to juggle: wildfires, huge population growth, drought, and water contamination with perchlorate and other chemicals. For all of these reasons, water recycling and new technology for treatment are critical to this area.

We need to increase and improve the quality of our water supply, and this legislation before us today is a giant step in that direction.

I would like to commend my neighbor, Congressman DREIER, for his leadership in improving water availability in Southern California, as well as in the fight to clean up perchlorate-contaminated groundwater.

I also commend the bipartisan California delegation for bringing forward important legislation that will bring crucial water benefits to our State.

I urge my colleagues to support this initiative that will help "drought-proof" a region that desperately needs it.

#### HONORING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF JOYCE CARDELLA

**HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a woman whose 42 years of public service to the City of Los Angeles serves as an example to us all. On behalf of my esteemed colleagues, I would like to acknowledge this remarkable woman whose reputation for hard work, humility, and effectiveness is well deserved.

Ms. Cardella began her career in 1960 as a senior clerk stenographer for the Los Angeles City Health Department. In 1963, she transferred to the office of 13th District Councilman James Harvey Brown. Four years later, she joined the office of Fowler D. Jones, the first Chief Legislative Analyst for the Los Angeles City Council. Over the next 34 years, Ms. Cardella faithfully served as the Executive Assistant to each succeeding Chief Legislative Analyst.

She has had the opportunity to work with many of the city's leaders, including 4 mayors, 8 City Council presidents, 67 city council members, 4 city administrative officers, and all 7 chief legislative analysts. Ms. Cardella even worked for the city when my father, former Congressman Edward Roybal, started his career in elected office as a Los Angeles City Council Member.

As part of the team of workers that have led Los Angeles, Ms. Cardella played a role in responding to Los Angeles's triumphs and tragedies—working to prepare the city for the 1984 Olympic Games and to rebuild our city after three major earthquakes, two episodes of civil disturbance, and the Baldwin Hills Flood.

Ms. Cardella has meant many things to many people. To her neighborhood, she is a graduate of Benjamin Franklin High School. To others, she is an alumnus of Glendale College, where she received an associate of arts degree. To her family, she is a loved and respected mother and grandmother. To the city that she proudly served, she is the standard to which few can lay claim, but toward which all employees strive. All who know and have worked with Ms. Cardella, know that her loyalty to her office was second only to her loyalty to the citizens of Los Angeles themselves.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to express my thanks, and that of a grateful city, to Joyce Cardella for 42 years of dedication and public service.

#### RECOGNIZING THE EUFAULA TRIBUNE'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY JOURNALISM

**HON. TERRY EVERETT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a community newspaper in my congressional district celebrating 75 years in business. The Eufaula Tribune recently marked its anniversary by announcing a

new publisher, Jack Smith, who was the associate publisher, editor, and son of long-time publisher and owner, Joel P. Smith, Sr.

For three quarters of a century, The Tribune has consistently educated, challenged, and supported the community of Eufaula with weekly, professional reporting. In an age of mass media and corporate take-over, this family-owned paper has remained a cornerstone of its community and a refreshing splash of local color. In fact, the Tribune has not only garnered a loyal readership, but has netted 14 awards from the Alabama Press Association.

Since 1958, Joel Smith has devoted his time, energy, and verbal craftsmanship to the Tribune. At the same time, he and his wife, Ann, a columnist and reporter for the Tribune, have raised three boys, balancing healthy community life with critical reporting. Joel's 46 years of endurance and commitment to his paper and his hometown are worth commending.

Jack began working for the Tribune at age 10 and is now an experienced and educated writer, editor, and publisher. Succeeding as publisher while raising his own young family in Eufaula, Jack promises continued excellence for the family-oriented community newspaper, saying "my goal is to become the best community newspaper in Alabama."

Mr. Speaker, I have a special appreciation for the contributions and the difficulties of running a newspaper in a small town. I, myself, owned and published a few different community newspapers in Alabama for over 30 years. It is a challenging and rewarding business and one of the noblest callings in public service.

The Eufaula Tribune has kept Eufaula, Alabama a vibrant, thinking, and informed community for 75 years. I salute this outstanding achievement.

#### HONORING THE 23RD ANNUAL DOMINICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to one of New York's oldest celebrations of Dominican culture, Manhattan's Dominican Day Parade.

The annual parade, which once ran through the heart of Washington Heights, has grown to become one of August's most anticipated celebrations of cultural and ethnic pride on New York's Sixth Avenue since the 1980s. The parade not only is a celebration of pride, but also pays homage to the declaration of the Nation's independence on February 27, 1844, when the Dominican Republic established constitutional autonomy. For Dominicans in the United States the commemoration, held in August, is a second Independence Day serving as a cultural holiday.

The Dominican Day Parade has paid tribute to the cultural heritage of the Dominican Republic and the vast contributions the Dominican community has made in the State of New York and in the Nation. Through the parade, the President and the Dominican Day Parade Committee have promoted unity as well as the advancement of Dominicans in New York City. Dominican youth are our hope for the future



and we want to encourage them to strive for excellence and advancement through this great celebration.

As in past years, this celebration follows Dominican Heritage Week and the Gran Parada Dominicana in the Bronx. On August 8th, beginning from 36th Street to 59th Street on Sixth Avenue, New Yorkers of all ages will get a chance to learn about some of the ways in which this vibrant community is transforming the Nation.

I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring this celebration and continue to support the great accomplishments made by Dominicans around the Nation and all over the world.

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FREEDOM FOR LUIS MILÁN  
FERNÁNDEZ

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**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Luis Milán Fernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Milán Fernández is a medical doctor by profession. Because of his training in protecting and nurturing human life, he could not tolerate the tyrant's incessant abuse of Cuban people. He understood the human condition and he knew that freedom is infinitely superior to the ills of tyranny and repression. Because of his belief in liberty, he joined the Cuban Medical Association and other groups dedicated to peacefully advocating for freedom for every citizen of Cuba.

In June 2001, Mr. Milán Fernández signed a document called "Manifiesto 2001", a document that called for recognition of fundamental freedoms in Cuba. According to Amnesty International, he, along with other medical professionals, staged a 1-day hunger strike to call attention to the medical situation of detainees.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the dictator's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Milán Fernández was arrested because of his belief in liberty over repression. In a sham trial, he was "sentenced" to 13 years in the inhuman, totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Milán Fernández is languishing in the infernal gulag because he believes in human rights and liberty. He is suffering in abhorrent conditions because he refuses to accept the reality inflicted on the Cuban people by the tyrant. Let us be very clear, the politics of repression and tyranny practiced by the regime in Havana are incompatible with the democratic values of the western hemisphere.

Mr. Speaker, it is a crime against humanity that pro-democracy activists such as Mr. Milán Fernández are locked in totalitarian dungeons because they advocate for freedom and human rights. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Luis Milán Fernández and every prisoner of conscience imprisoned by the nightmare called the Castro regime.

JULY 28TH IS INTERNET SAFETY  
DAY

**HON. MARK FOLEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, we live in a new age and it is becoming increasingly apparent that our laws must meet the challenge of protecting our children in the face of new threats and new technology.

The Internet is a powerful tool that has brought new opportunities for education, commerce and self-empowerment to millions of Americans. However, it also provides a new medium for pedophiles to reach out to our most vulnerable citizens—America's children.

This has become a growing problem and, in 2002, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reported that online child pornography and/or sexual exploitation are the most significant cyber-crimes against children.

I commend the efforts of Court TV and its CEO Henry Schlieff, Al Roker and the production team behind Al Roker Investigates: Katie.com for bringing attention to online sexual predators. Court TV's active role in shedding light on the issue of "Internet deception" will help protect America's children and raise much needed awareness to parents across the country.

As cochairman of the Congressional Missing & Exploited Children's Caucus, I join you in celebrating July 28 as Internet Safety Day in the hopes of bringing stronger awareness to the deceptive crimes against children that are being perpetrated on the Internet.

While we work in Congress to give law enforcement the tools to protect our children like the highly successful national deployment of the AMBER Alert system, the most important weapon of all is showing parents how to keep a watchful eye on the activities of their children; knowing the people who come into contact with their children in their neighborhoods, schools and online; and using plain common sense.

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JUNK FAX PREVENTION ACT OF  
2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. GIL GUTKNECHT**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2004*

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. UPTON for crafting this legislation in such a way that it protects the rights of consumers, without obstructing legitimate business endeavors.

I bring a unique perspective to this debate. I am a real estate auctioneer by trade. And for those auctioneers, it is common practice to notify people who have bid at previous auctions about upcoming auction sales. This is particularly the case if the person is interested in a certain type of item that will be sold at a subsequent auction.

Let me provide a real world example. A person registers to bid at an auction of 18th century antique furniture. A few months after that auction, another sale is scheduled that includes 18th century antique furniture. It is

common practice for auctioneers to notify those individuals again that there is an upcoming auction, and sending such notices by fax is a very cost effective means of doing this.

H.R. 4600, the "Junk Fax Prevention Act of 2004," restores the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) interpretation of the EBR or "established business relationship" as it existed prior to January 1, 2003. Under that FCC interpretation, incorporated by reference in the bill, the term "established business relationship" means "a prior or existing relationship formed by a voluntary two-way communication between a person or entity and a residential subscriber—and the bill expands that to also include business subscribers—with or without consideration, on the basis of an inquiry, application, purchase or transaction by the residential subscriber regarding products or services offered by such person or entity, which relationship has not been previously terminated by either party."

As such, with respect to the example I referenced above, H.R. 4600 would permit an auctioneer to send a notice of an upcoming auction by fax to a person who had registered for and/or bid at a prior auction run by that auctioneer.

I support this outcome, and I also agree that if a party wishes to stop receiving such notifications they should be allowed to do so. I am pleased that this legislation contains such "opt-out" language.

I support this legislation and believe that such measures which aim to reduce the onslaught of faxes, e-mails, etc., are good policy for consumers. In addition, it is important that the record highlights the unique nature of the auction business and its importance to a variety of industries and especially rural communities.

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DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR,  
SUDAN

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 21, 2004*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this incredibly dangerous legislation. I hope my colleagues are not fooled by the title of this bill, "Declaring genocide in Darfur, Sudan." This resolution is no statement of humanitarian concern for what may be happening in a country thousands of miles from the United States. Rather, it could well lead to war against the African country of Sudan. The resolution "urges the Bush Administration to seriously consider multilateral or even unilateral intervention to prevent genocide should the United Nations Security Council fail to act." We must realize the implications of urging the President to commit the United States to intervene in an ongoing civil war in a foreign land thousands of miles away?

Mr. Speaker, this resolution was never marked up in the House International Relations Committee, on which I serve. Therefore, Members of that committee had no opportunity to amend it or express their views before it was sent to the Floor for a vote. Like too many highly controversial bills, it was rushed onto the suspension calendar (by House rules reserved for "non-controversial" legislation) at

the last minute. Perhaps there was a concern that if Members had more time to consider the bill they would cringe at the resolution's call for U.S. military action in Sudan—particularly at a time when our military is stretched to the breaking point. The men and women of the United States Armed Forces risk their lives to protect and defend the United States. Can anyone tell me how sending thousands of American soldiers into harm's way in Sudan is by any stretch of the imagination in the U.S. national interest or in keeping with the Constitutional function of this country's military forces? I urge my colleagues in the strongest terms to reject this dangerous resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF "INTELLIGENT  
VEHICLE HIGHWAY SAFETY ACT  
OF 2004"

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, every year, 42,000 deaths occur on our highways. Together with 6 million accidents and 5.2 million injuries, the comprehensive cost to our Nation is more than \$400 billion per year. The great cost in human lives these statistics demonstrate is the reason why today I offer bipartisan legislation that will assist in the reduction of these tragedies on our Nation's roadways.

Driver error is cited as the cause of 90 percent of these accidents. The World Health Organization (WHO) identified road traffic deaths as a worldwide public health issue, and dedicated this year's World Health Day theme to road safety.

A variety of technologies that could help drivers to avoid crashes have already been developed. These "intelligent vehicle technologies" help by warning drivers of impending collisions or compensate for other forms of driver error. While these devices are beginning to be deployed on some automobiles and commercial vehicles, this is happening far too slowly.

The Federal Highway Administration's stated goal for highway safety is to achieve of a 20 percent reduction in vehicle-related fatalities and injuries by 2008. Intelligent vehicle technologies represent the single best opportunity to help us achieve that goal. The Federal Government has long invested in traditional methods of improving highway safety, through the construction of safer roads or through encouraging and then mandating the use of seatbelts. No less important is helping to ensure that automobiles and trucks on our roads are equipped with the latest in these safety technologies.

That is why I have introduced the Intelligent Vehicle Highway Safety Act, which will accelerate the adoption of these technologies, not by regulation, but rather by encouraging consumers to purchase safer vehicles through providing incentives. Vehicles equipped with these life-saving technologies have been shown to reduce accidents anywhere from 40 percent to 60 percent.

My legislation would provide an above-the-line deduction on income tax returns for the

cost of purchasing intelligent vehicle technology (IVT) equipment in their passenger vehicles. Businesses that purchase heavy trucks equipped with IVT would be allowed to exempt a portion of this equipment's cost from the Federal Excise Tax (FET). The intent of this legislation is to provide a broad based tax incentive to individuals and businesses that purchase vehicles equipped with IVT safety equipment.

Intelligent Vehicle Technologies comprise the range of smart products that enhance safety for drivers, including lane departure warnings, roll stability systems, automatic crash notification systems, workload managers and telematics equipment. The relatively small cost to the Treasury for this legislation is an investment that will save thousands of lives each year. Deployment of IVT will have other benefits as well: accident reduction will reduce injuries, limit property damage and mitigate traffic congestion and its accompanying pollution.

To illustrate, let's take a snap shot of how these technologies could impact the every day lives of American motorists across the Nation. In the New York-Northeast New Jersey area, area residents spend on average 422 million hours each year in traffic related delays. Since 1982 the percent of daily travel time spent in congestion increased from 14 percent to 34 percent in 2001 and peak travel in the same time period congestion increased from 28 percent to 69 percent. This increased congestion represents an \$8.4 billion annual cost in delay and wasted fuel, specifically—696 million gallons of fuel on New York City area roads and highways. Over 67 percent of this cost is due to delays caused by driving accidents. And the most sobering statistic of all is the 1,458 traffic deaths that occurred on New York City roadways in 2001. Intelligent Vehicle Technology could reduce congestion costs by \$2.8 billion each year, reduce wasted fuel by 238 million gallons each year and reduce congestion by 34 percent.

In our Nation's heartland, the statistics also support the need for measures to be taken to reduce accidents on our roadways. The numbers point to the urgent need for a reduction in the costs to the American people's time, money and quality of life. In the Chicago area, residents spend 27 hours each year in traffic-related delays. Since 1982, time spent in congestion increased from 23 percent to 40 percent in 2001 and for the same time period peak travel congestion increased from 46 percent to 81 percent. If you place dollars to this delay, it costs Chicago area residents \$4.1 billion each year in delays and wasted fuel—340 million gallons of wasted fuel to be exact. Once again over 56 percent of this cost is due to driving accidents and related delays. Chicago area accidents in 2001 alone tragically ended the lives of 1,418 motorists. It is estimated that IVT technology could reduce Chicagoland's congestion costs by \$1.2 billion each year and save 97 million gallons each year. It is further estimated that IVT technology could also translate into a reduction in the time spent by area residents in traffic congestion by 29 percent.

To illustrate that this is a nationwide problem, fewer residents are harder hit by this "epidemic" than those of the Los Angeles, California area. Residents there collectively

spend 667 million hours in traffic-related delays. The percent of daily travel spent in congestion has increased from 31 percent in 1981 to 44 percent in 2001, and peak travel time congestion in the same time period increased from 62 percent in 1981 to 88 percent in 2001. This increased congestion costs residents \$12.9 billion each year in delays and wasted fuel to the tune of 996 million gallons of fuel, with nearly 55 percent of this cost due to driving accidents. Most alarming is the number of annual fatalities; in 2001 the number of motorists who lost their lives in traffic accidents was 3,753. This is certainly a human tragedy in addition to a significant drain on area commuter time and money.

In the Los Angeles case, research shows that IVT technology could potentially reduce congestion costs by \$3.6 billion each year and reduce the number of gallons of fuel wasted in traffic by 279 million gallons. In terms of quality of life, IVT could give back local residents over 28 percent of the daily travel time they currently spend on the roadways of Los Angeles.

The benefits of IVT technology are not limited to our Nation's commuters. Commercial trucks and trailers are responsible for moving nearly 3.5 trillion tons of freight each year. The reliable and timely transport of goods is vital to the health of our Nation's economy. However, accidents involving commercial trucks cost over \$24 billion each year in lives lost, medical and emergency services, and property damage. Fatal accidents cost more than any other accidents when heavy trucks are involved, the average cost being \$3.54 million per accident for trucks with multiple trailers. Statistically, over the past 10 years, accidents involving large trucks increased by over 15 percent. The deployment of IVT technologies to the trucking industry could also greatly reduce accident rates, cost per accident, and the resulting traffic congestion. Application of these technologies to commercial trucking is a vital part of increasing our nation's roadway safety and ensuring the cost effective and timely transportation of goods throughout the United States.

America leads the world in the development of IVT technology, which comes as no surprise. However, what is surprising is that Europe and Japan lead in deployment of these technologies. It is clear from the statistics above that accidents, congestion, and related loss of life are nationwide problems that need to be addressed by the deployment of these life saving technologies here at home. The goal of my legislation is to jump start the deployment of these safety technologies so that associated benefits become more universally experienced through its widespread use here in the U.S. It is intended to encourage consumers at all income levels to purchase IVT equipped vehicles.

As we continue to consider various legislation this year, I believe it is also important to look at additional innovative ways to address the unacceptable levels of highway deaths and injuries. The Intelligent Vehicle Highway Safety Act will promote safer vehicles. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to enact this important legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GENERAL  
RICHARD A. CODY, VICE CHIEF  
OF STAFF, UNITED STATES  
ARMY

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to General Richard A. Cody, a true American Patriot, who has dedicated his career to the service and defense of America. On June 24, 2004 General Cody was named the 31st Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

General Cody's impressive military career began upon graduation from the United States Military Academy on June 6, 1972 with his commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. General Cody is an Air Assault graduate and Master Aviator with over 5000 hours of flight time. During his thirty-two years of service, General Cody has participated in a variety of command and staff assignments. General Cody served as Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division, as well as 101st Aviation Regiment during Operation Desert Storm and most recently,

he served as Deputy Chief of Staff, United States Army. General Cody has shown brilliant leadership throughout his career having been awarded with decorations such as the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

Mr. Speaker, for the last thirty-two years, General Cody has selflessly served the American people, keeping our country safe and free. I cannot think of a better soldier to lead our armed forces as they continue to protect America.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing General Cody's service to America and to offer my best personal regards on his appointment as Vice Chief of Staff of the United States Army.

HONORING PERMEDION FOR ITS  
THIRTY YEARS OF OUT-  
STANDING SERVICE TO THE  
HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 22, 2004*

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Permedion for its thirty years of

service to the healthcare community. Permedion is a not for profit organization headquartered in Westerville, Ohio whose primary areas of service are healthcare quality measurement and improvement, data analysis and management, and independent medical review. Its employees work nationwide with hospitals, insurance companies, government agencies and other professional groups in order to improve our healthcare system.

Permedion helps reduce healthcare costs by monitoring the utilization and quality of healthcare services and detecting inappropriate use. They also review appeals for medical necessity and are one of the last avenues for enrollees to appeal a decision their health plan makes.

In 1974 a group of physicians founded Permedion with the goal of providing peer review and quality assurance to healthcare agencies across Ohio. Today I am proud to recognize Permedion as one of the nation's leading providers in healthcare quality improvement. Once again, I congratulate Permedion for its thirty years of service and wish them the best for the next thirty.